

THE MUSE MANSION (site)

Formerly located at the intersection of Muse and Academy Streets, where the Citgo gas station stands today, was the Muse Mansion, built by Dr. Joseph E. Muse in 1825. It was a large and handsome three story brick building of symmetrical design, with an arcaded porch across the front between two gabled end wings. The house was later converted into a private school for girls known as the Cambridge Female Seminary. In 1892, it became part of the public school system and served as the high school until 1930, and was then used for the 6th and 7th grades. The building was burned down in 1955.

1003746302

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: The old Cambridge High School, Cambridge Female Seminary or Dr. Joseph Muse Mansion				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Muse Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Dorchester		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Bath		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Uncltered </div> <div> (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p> Photographs show that the Muse Mansion was a large three story brick building with a low pitched gable roof. On either side of the center three bays, projecting forward was a two bay gabled wing with a bullseye window in the gable. The cornice was ornamented by large modillions. In front of the center three bays between the two end wings was a one story porch with three arched openings forming an arcade across the front. The front door was behind the center arch, and there was a ballustrade across the two end arches. There was also a ballustrade across the front of the flat roof of this porch. </p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1825, razed 1955

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

History:

This structure, formerly at the head of Muse Street where the Citgo gas station is located today, was originally built as a private dwelling. It was then converted into a private school for young ladies and finally became part of the Dorchester County public school system. The tract of land upon which the school stood was owned in early colonial days by John Kirk, who at that time owned a great deal of land that is now the City of Cambridge. In 1722, John Kirk sold to Thomas Nevitt a tract of land that included the school grounds. A large part of the Nevitt tract was bought by Robert Muir, after whose family, the nearby Muir Street was named. Evidently he divided part of the property into lots, as the tract seems to have been sold off in small parcels. On January 12, 1803, Joseph Muse purchased from Robert Muir, a tract of land bordering Cambridge Creek. In 1825, Dr. Joseph E. Muse erected the Muse Mansion, the site of the dwelling being on a high piece of land that sloped to the creek.

In 1852, the property was bought by Judge Charles Goldsborough and in 1858 it passed into other hands. Shortly thereafter it became a private school for young ladies called the Cambridge Female Seminary. Classes were held on the first and second floors, the third floor being used as a dormitory. In 1892, the school became a part of the public school system. Both Governor Emerson C. Harrington and U. S. Senator George L. Radcliffe were once principals of the school. It served as the high school until 1930 and was then used for the 6th and 7th grades. The building was burned on January 16, 1955.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lascowski, F. Arthur, Papers

Jones, Elias - New Revised History of Dorchester
County, Cambridge
Tidewater Publishers, 1966

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Catherine L. Moore,

ORGANIZATION

DATE

12/8/75

STREET AND NUMBER:

Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN:

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland

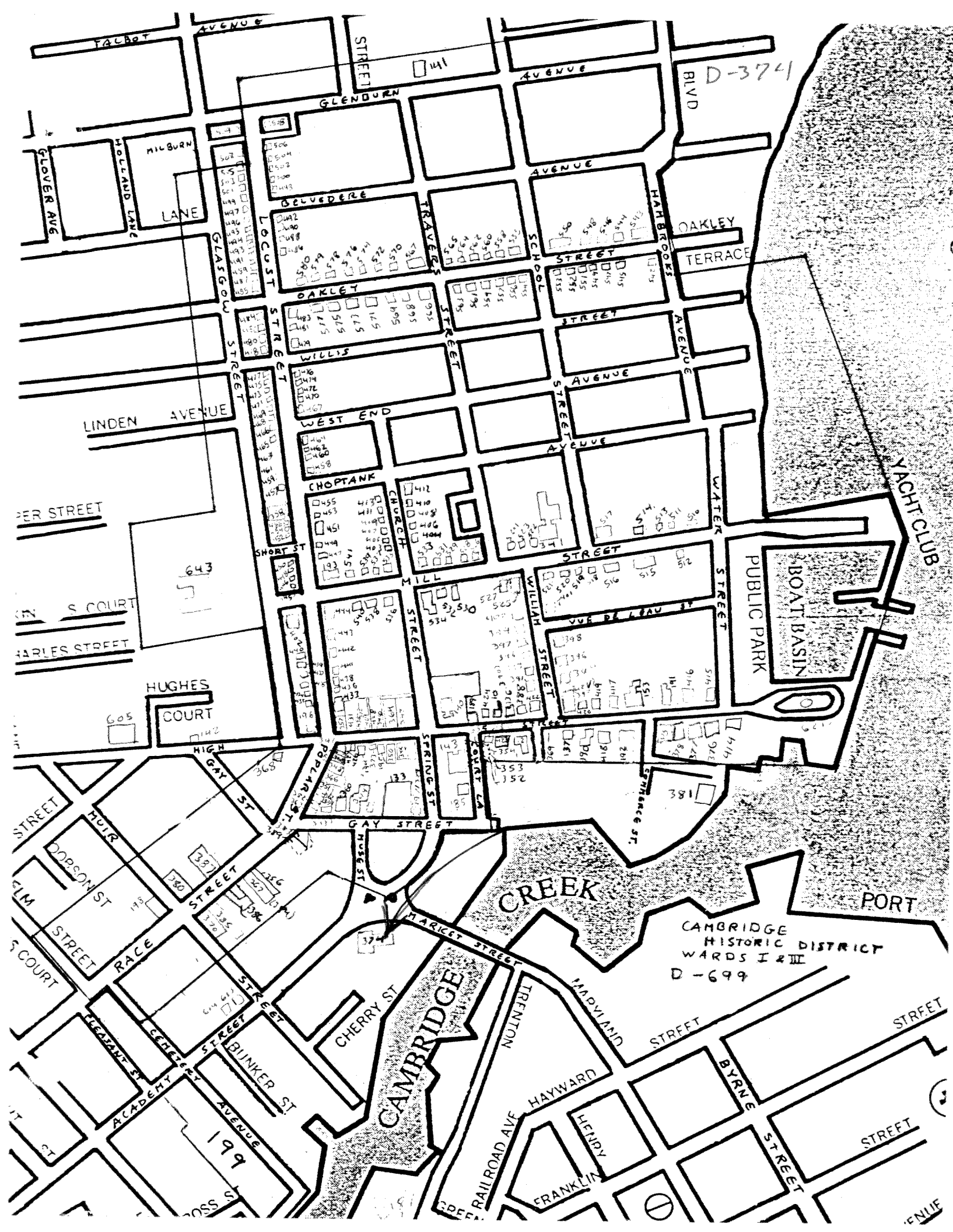
12.

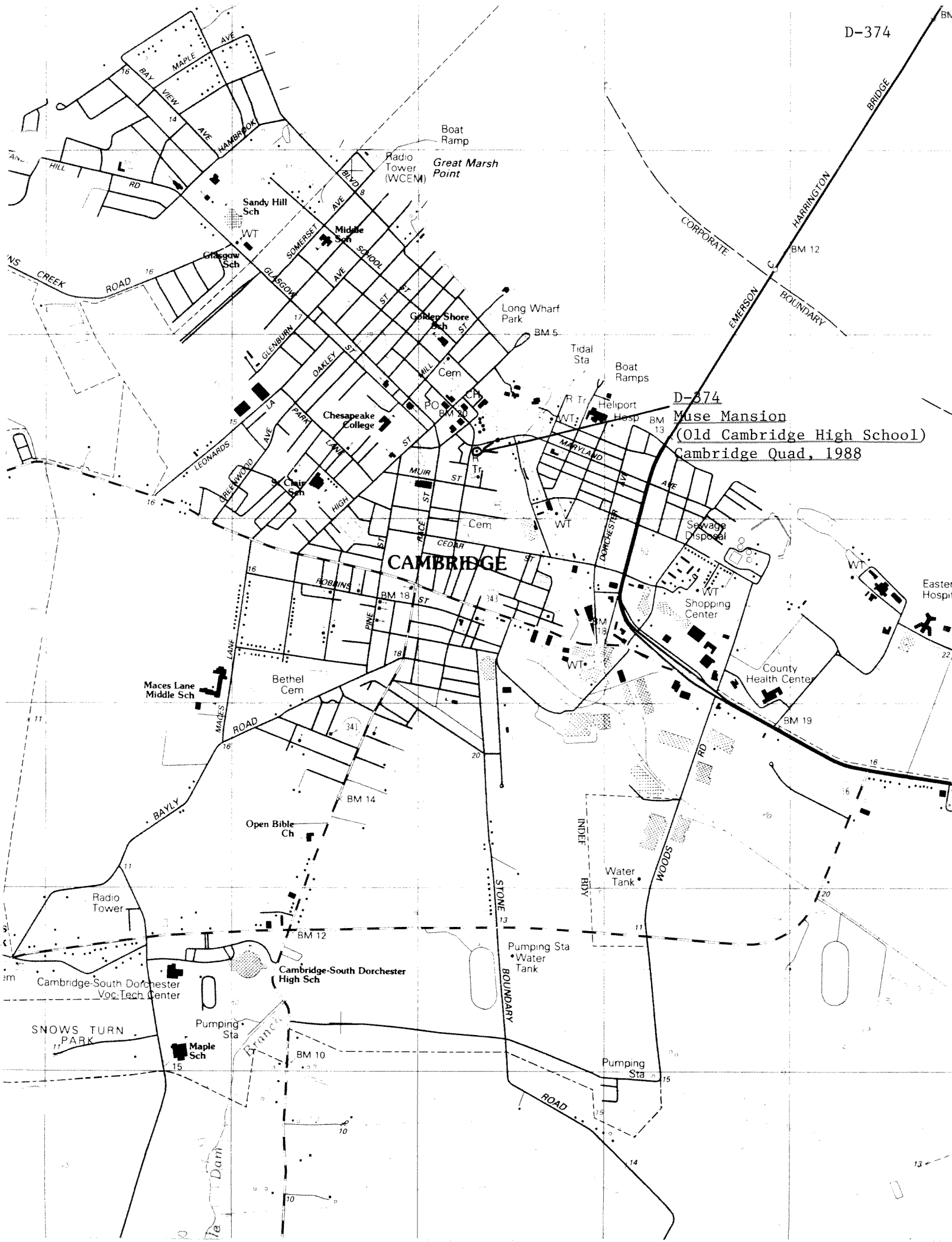
State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

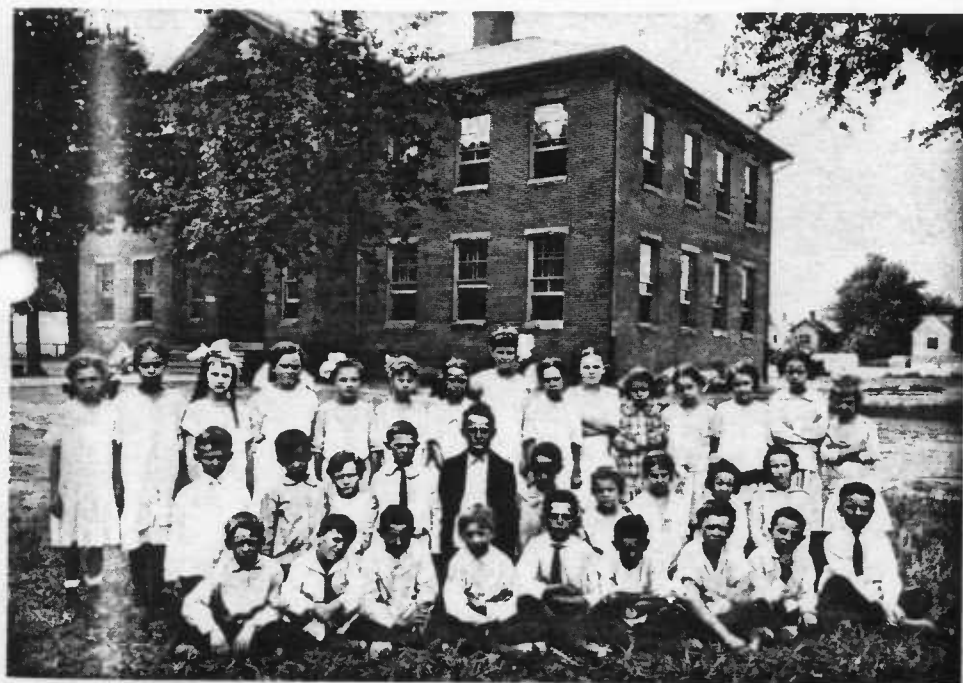




D-374
(bottom)



In 1896, the original Cambridge Academy was located on the west corner of Mill and School streets. On Monday afternoon, December 14, 1902, fire destroyed the building; there were three hundred students enrolled in the school, and all were evacuated safely. From the author's collection



After the fire of 1902, the school at the corner of Mill and School streets was rebuilt and became known as Academy School. Mrs. Ella Todd's third grade class posed for this picture about 1914. From left to right, in the top row, are unidentified, unidentified, Emily Hastings, Roxie Windsor, unidentified, unidentified, unidentified, unidentified, Ethel Willey, Margaret McGrath, Mildred Mayne, Louise Wilson, Anna May Hubbard, unidentified, and Louise Blades. In the middle row are Mowbray, Albert Slacum, Henry Taitt, unidentified, unidentified, unidentified, Florence Parks, unidentified, Lillian Hall, and Addie Starr; and in the bottom row are unidentified, Stack, Hurley, unidentified, unidentified, unidentified, unidentified, unidentified, Wilson Pete Andrews, and unidentified. Courtesy of Anna May Hubbard Carrow

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The old Seminary School building faced the intersection of Academy, Muse, and Market streets. Built as a private residence by Dr. James Muse in 1825, it became the Cambridge Female Academy; later, after a merger, it became the Cambridge High School. In 1904, the school was remodeled at a cost of sixteen thousand dollars; ceilings in the building were metal and the building was heated throughout by steam. In 1929 a new high school was opened on School Street.

Col. Albanus Phillips purchased the grounds and the building, and on June 18, 1942, he allowed the office of Price Administration to open its Eastern Shore headquarters in the building. Courtesy of Morley Jull collection



This photograph of the 1928 Cambridge High School graduating class was taken in front of the Seminary School. In the front row, from left to right, are William Lake, Harrison Dixon, William Merrick, Harold Shriver, Robert Christopher, Nicholas Williams, and Robert Tieder. In the second row are, from left to right, Lucille Langrall, Calvin Dean, Florence Smith, William LeCompte, Lillian Bradshaw, Edgar Skinner, Marguerite Murphy Tolley, Woodrow Rue, Estelle Robinson Mills, and Lloyd Slacum. In the third row, from left to right, are Milford Brown, Sarah Bassett Boston, Elizabeth Jones Mowbray, Louise Prouse, Marie Ewell Smith, Nannie Vannaman, Alice Langrall McQuay, Margaret Johnson Thomas, Dorothy Harrington Mahood, Louise Tubman, Margaret McCollister, Henrietta Jackson, Martha Mowbray Pink, and Marcel Thomas. In the top row, from left to right, are Ida Slacum, Margaret Andrews Atkins, Ralph Mace, Dorothy Evans Startt, Joseph O'Connor, Ruth Marshall Wolfe, Alvin Creighton, Anona Jones Moore, Leslie Evans, Doris Jones Warner, and Mary Gootee Dean. Courtesy of Mrs. Margaret Thomas



On January 16, 1955, under the supervision of Chief Brice G. Kinnamon, First Assistant Chief Mitchell Gould, and Second Assistant Chief Robert Brooks, the Seminary Building was burned for experimental and training purposes. Firemen from the Neck District, Lakes and Straits, Church Creek, Hurlock, Secretary, East New Market, Easton, and Trappe fire companies observed the fire. In five hours the building was burned and the walls were down. Photograph by A. Russell Tregoe; courtesy of Mrs. A. Russell Tregoe